

[27 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

(b) All jute and jute products were exempted from excise duty in the budget for 1997-98 to revive and give a thrust to the ailing jute industry.

(c) and (d) In view of the impending budget, it is not possible to indicate any response.

Financial irregularities by M/s. Reliance Petroleum Ltd.

606. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Reliance Petroleum Ltd. have been indulging in financial irregularities in the Public Issue funds of their refinery project and complaints have been made to Government in this regards;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action, if any, has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan to Farmers

†607. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide loan to the farmers on the pattern of the industries for purchasing land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Finance Minister during his meeting with the Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks on 14 November, 2000 emphasized the need to step up priority sector

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.